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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AGREEMENT ALLOWS STORMWATER AGENCY TO INSPECT,
DETERMINE WETLAND BOUNDARIES**

Last night, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) Board approved an Interagency Cooperation Agreement (ICA) between the U.S Army Corps of Engineers-Chicago District (Corps), SMC, and the Lake County Planning, Building and Development Department (PBD), that creates a working program for the SMC and PBD to conduct inspections and make jurisdictional determinations (JDs) of wetlands and other waters within their respective jurisdictions in Lake County.

The intent of the ICA is to increase the level of public service by expediting the permit review process through coordination and cooperation of the involved agencies. Permit applicants may request SMC wetland specialists (or PBD wetland specialists in unincorporated Lake County) conduct office reviews and

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site inspections, and provide a preliminary jurisdictional determination. SMC or PBD will advise the Corps as to the presence of Isolated Waters of Lake County (IWLC) on proposed development sites.

For sites that have a “Waters of the U.S.” under Corps jurisdiction, the applicant will still need a final Corps letter.

Prior to the ICA, the Corps has been conducting all JDs, which can have extended response times to provide a JD to a permit applicant. By SMC (and PBD) conducting the JDs, this time frame will be significantly reduced.

“The ICA represents a significant cost savings to the permit applicant and to the permitting agencies like SMC, the local municipalities and the County. Local impacts benefit from local availability and this agreement of cooperation sets in motion a higher level of coordination and time savings,” said Ward Miller, SMC Executive Director.